

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

Information Letter

FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

No. 288

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Bill to Amend Food and Drugs Act Introduced

The bill drafted by the Association's Committee on Special Legislation, which would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to require the appropriate labeling of canned foods falling below a certain standard to be fixed by the Secretary of Agriculture, has been introduced in the Senate by Senator McNary of Oregon and in the House by Representative Mapes of Michigan.

The Senate Bill (S. 4800) was referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, of which Senator McNary is Chairman. The House Bill (H. R. 15218) was referred to the Committee on Agriculture. The members of the Senate and House Committees to which the bill was referred are:

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry—Charles L. McNary of Oregon, Chairman; George W. Norris, of Nebraska, Arthur Capper of Kansas, John Thomas of Idaho, Peter Norbeck of South Dakota, Lynn J. Frazier of North Dakota, Arthur R. Gould of Maine, O. A. Larrazola of New Mexico, Ellison D. Smith of South Carolina, Joseph E. Ransdell of Louisiana, John B. Kendrick of Wyoming, J. Thomas Heflin of Alabama, Thaddeus H. Caraway of Arkansas, Earle B. Mayfield of Texas, Burton K. Wheeler of Montana, Elmer Thomas of Oklahoma, Henrik Shipstead of Minnesota.

House Committee on Agriculture—Gilbert N. Haugen of Iowa, Chairman; Fred S. Purnell of Indiana, Thomas S. Williams of Illinois, Charles J. Thompson of Ohio, John C. Ketcham of Michigan, Thomas Hall of North Dakota, Harcourt J. Pratt of New York, Franklin W. Fort of New Jersey, Franklin Menges of Pennsylvania, August H. Andresen of Minnesota, Charles Adkins of Illinois, John D. Clarke of New York, Clifford R.

Hope of Kansas, James B. Aswell of Louisiana, David H. Kinchloe of Kentucky, Marvin Jones of Texas, Fletcher B. Swank of Oklahoma, Hampton P. Fulmer of South Carolina, Thomas A. Doyle of Illinois, John McSweeney of Ohio, Victor S. K. Houston of Hawaii.

Room Directory for Convention

The Stevens Hotel has arranged to prepare a printed directory that will be posted in the elevator lobby on each floor of the hotel during the convention of the National Canners Association.

There will be included in this directory the names of all canners and others in the trade accredited by their associations who furnish their names and room numbers to the hotel so as to arrive on Friday, January 18.

The first posting of the directory will be on Sunday, January 20. A revision of the list to include changes and additions will be made on Monday, January 21, and on Tuesday, January 22. If canners are unable to give their room numbers at the time they notify the Stevens Hotel that they wish their names to be printed in the Directory, this information will be supplied from the hotel records or can be conveyed to the hotel by the individual canners at the time of their arrival, for inclusion in the revised list.

Truck Crop Markets

Combined shipments of 23 important fruits and vegetables increased during the week ending December 8 to 15,410 cars and were 1,100 cars more than the volume of a year ago, according to the U. S. Market News Service.

Most of the gain over the preceding week was in movement of oranges, celery, cauliflower, spinach, sweet potatoes, western apples, and mixed vegetables. Output of oranges jumped to 2,850 cars, of which California furnished 1,660, while Florida increased rapidly to 1,150 cars. Florida also made considerable progress in movement of its crop of string beans; 75 cars rolled during the week.

Cauliflower shipments totaled 335 cars, nearly all from California. Last season's corresponding movement of cauliflower was only 200 cars. Because of a falling-off in the movement of Florida grapefruit, that State was credited with only 685 cars during the seven-day period, and total shipments of grapefruit were only 770. Texas started 110 cars to market. During early December, 1927, only 480 carloads of this fruit were forwarded.

Florida tomato shipments increased to 75 cars, while California and Texas furnished a dozen each. Imports of tomatoes from Mexico were 90 cars, from Cuba 27, and from the Bahamas 18. Shipments of spinach increased to 325 cars. Virginia reached a total of 250 for the week, and Maryland and Texas about 30 each.

A preliminary estimate of cabbage plantings in four early shipping States gives a total of 36,260 acres, about 2,130 more than last season and the largest acreage in any recent year. Florida may have 5,200 acres, or almost double last year's light plantings. California and Louisiana are reduced slightly to 5,900 and 8,560 acres, respectively, but Texas' plantings may be increased slightly to 16,600 acres.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	Dec. 2-8	Nov. 25- Dec. 1	Dec. 4-10	Total this season to Dec. 8	Total last season to Dec. 10	Total last season
Apples, total	2,559	2,463	1,765	92,776	71,244	92,094
Eastern	970	980	570	46,791	35,675	44,415
Western	1,589	1,477	1,195	45,985	35,569	48,679
Cabbage:						
1929 season	9	3	16	20	57	32,717
1928 season	640	613	571	32,717	31,546	39,067
Carrots:						
1929 season	145	195	(a)	1,080	(a)	6,260
1928 season	56	42	(a)	6,269	(a)	6,822
Cauliflower	335	271	189	2,927	2,577	9,046
Cucumbers	12	9	6	7,458	8,173	8,175
Grapefruit:						
Domestic	768	979	482	5,878	5,045	16,172
Imports	0	3	40	520	1,308	2,287
Green peas:						
Domestic	61	84	48	589	285	4,872
Imports	14	9	17	23	20	987
Mixed deciduous fruits	4	11	5	6,384	5,361	5,408
Mixed vegetables:						
Domestic	527	395	572	31,472	33,562	35,050
Imports	3	5	1	9	3	161
Pears	131	99	62	22,361	18,111	18,744
Peppers	3	4	67	10	421	2,865
Spinach:						
1929 season	294	175	380	849	1,307	10,595
1928 season	31	32	11	10,305	6,650	9,655
String beans:						
1929 season	74	48	137	235	967	6,646
1928 season	17	11	3	6,616	6,481	6,481
Tomatoes:						
1929 season	75	49	51	191	95	80,051
1928 season	27	60	26	30,051	32,648	32,663
Imports	183	66	143	238	233	5,428

(a) Unavailable

California Truck Crops

The California acreage of carrots for harvest during February and March is estimated by the California Cooperative Crop Reporting Service at 1,370 acres, as compared with 450 in 1928 and 430 in 1927. Carrots have been enjoying favorable weather in most sections of the State.

Imperial Valley peas were reporting severely injured by a heavy frost on November 18 and by lighter frosts during the week following. The loss is estimated at 25 to 50 per cent.

Pending Legislation

Salmon Propagation Fund.—A bill (S. 4841) has been introduced by Senator McNary which would establish a fund for the propagation of salmon in the Columbia River district, this fund to be equal to the sums heretofore received by the United States as rental for fishing rights on Sand Island, Oregon, since the granting of such land to the United States by the State of Oregon. All sums hereafter received by the United States as rental for fishing rights on such island would be covered into such a fund.

Census Bill.—The Senate Committee on Commerce has reported the bill (H. R. 393) to provide for the fifteenth decennial census, with an amendment changing the time for beginning the census from May, as provided in the bill as passed by the House, to November 1.

Home Economics Students and Workers Visit Research Laboratory

Twenty students who are in their third year of training in the Home Economics Department of the University of Maryland recently visited the Research Laboratory of the National Canners Association, where the work of the laboratory was explained to them in a series of short talks. The use of canning machinery was demonstrated, and an explanation given of the methods used by the laboratory in determining heat penetration. The visit served not only to give the students a better idea of commercial canning methods, but also to show the purpose and scope of the National Canners Association's research work.

The Nutrition Section of the District of Columbia Home Economics Association held their December 11 meeting at the Association's offices, the chief feature of which was an address by a member of the Research Laboratory staff. The group includes hospital dietitians, restaurant and cafeteria managers, research workers, teachers of home economics and other women in business in home economics in Washington.

Business Conditions

Steel plant activity during the week ended December 8 was greater than in either the preceding week or the corresponding

period of last year, according to the weekly statement of the Department of Commerce. The volume of business as measured by check payments was higher than both the preceding week and the corresponding week last year.

The general level of wholesale prices showed a fractional decline from the preceding week but was somewhat higher than a year ago. Loans and discounts of Federal reserve member banks reached a new high point during the week. Interest rates on both time and call money averaged higher than in either the previous week or the corresponding period of last year. Prices for stocks receded sharply from the record of the preceding week. Bond prices reflecting higher interest rates, were lower than in either the preceding week or the same period of 1927.

Freight-car loadings covering the latest period were somewhat smaller than during the corresponding period last year. Business failures were greater in number than in the previous week, but less numerous than a year ago.

CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise	Other
		L. C. L.		
Week ended December 1	899,786	386,131	225,270	888,305
Preceding week	1,028,880	387,328	230,715	881,737
Corresponding week, 1927	918,487	389,648	236,581	822,268
Corresponding week, 1926	1,051,219	386,999	261,712	822,308

Handling Costs for Canned Products Studied

As announced in the Information Letter for November 10, the Foodstuffs Division of the Department of Commerce has undertaken a special study of handling costs for canned vegetables, fruits, meats, fish, soups and milk. Plans are being made for a complete study of the handling costs of canned foods through canners, wholesale distributors, including various types of jobbers, and retailers. This information will be applied to the different commodities, further broken down into grades and sizes. The findings will present the conditions with relation to drop shipments and packing-house handling.

The study will be under the supervision of the Division's Grocery Specialist. Studies are to be made in different parts of the country, so that comparisons may be made between outstanding houses in their field in each region. Such studies are now under way in representative houses in the Middle West. Briefly, the method is to allocate the cost of handling to the different departments or classifications of merchandise; and then to conduct further research on canned foods. A major object of the study is to promote the use by the wholesale grocer of more scientific

accounting methods in computing his costs of handling various types of canned foods, which represent such an important part of his business.

Truck Crop Summary for 1928

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics on December 14 issued detailed statistics on the truck crops for 1928, including those grown both for table use and for canning and manufacture. The total acreage and value of the truck crops for which figures were compiled in 1927 and 1928 were as follows:

	Acreage		Total Value	
	1927	1928	1927	1928
Total table	1,645,740	1,774,470	\$304,035,000	\$271,523,000
Total canning and manufacture	789,720	986,500	41,018,000	46,850,000
Grand total	2,435,460	2,770,970	345,046,000	323,373,000

The following table shows the total production of all of the canning crops on which the bureau has compiled statistics, also the production of the same crops for table use during the last three years.

		1926	1927	1928
Asparagus:				
Table	crates	3,585,000	3,444,000	3,585,000
Canning	tons	51,000	53,200	64,300
Beans:				
Table	hampers	5,665,000	6,728,000	6,832,000
Canning	tons	41,600	46,000	65,200
Cabbage:				
Table	tons	910,100	1,202,800	976,000
Kraut	tons	124,100	165,700	131,800
Carrots:				
Carrots	bushels	5,525,000	7,352,000	6,400,000
Corn:				
Canning	tons	816,000	399,000	336,400
Cucumbers:				
Table	hampers	5,187,000	5,978,000	4,586,000
Manufacture	bushels	3,669,000	3,380,000	4,040,000
Peas, green:				
Table	hampers	2,881,000	5,029,000	5,096,000
Canning	pounds	(a) 215,000	317,334,000	390,539,000
Peppers:				
Peppers	hampers	5,890,000	5,302,000	4,418,000
Spinach:				
Table	bushels	12,463,000	14,173,000	11,370,000
Canning	tons	49,600	58,000	69,000
Tomatoes:				
Table	bushels	13,695,000	17,733,000	15,820,000
Manufacture	tons	992,800	1,144,200	962,400

(a) Tons

New Chinese Tariff Rates Announced

A new tariff schedule proposed to be effective February 1 was released December 10 by the Kiumo Min, the official Nationalist news agency of China, according to the U. S. Department of Commerce. The American Trade Commissioner at Shanghai has telegraphed the approximate rates of duty for the more important classifications. Fishery and sea products would be dutiable at 7½ per cent ad valorem and canned foods at 17½ per cent ad valorem.

Italian Cherry Industry

Although the Italian cherry crop of 1928 is reported to have been less than normal the quality is said to have been excellent, and prices were more than double those of 1927, according to a report recently received in the Department of Commerce from the American Consulate at Genoa. The total quantity of sulphured and brined cherries produced was somewhat larger than last year, being approximately 48,500 barrels (220 pounds of cherries per barrel), according to trade estimates which are considered to be reliable.

Of this quantity 37,000 barrels were prepared by the sulphuring and brining industry to meet the requirements of Italy's foreign markets. The largest consumer of sulphured and brined cherries is the United States, which is reported to be taking approximately 90 per cent of the total Italian export. The remaining percentage goes to France and England, chiefly, while a few barrels are occasionally exported to Germany, Belgium and Mexico. This year, owing to a shortage in the French cherry crop (the crop is stated to have been one-third less than in 1927) France has imported a larger quantity of brined cherries than usual from Italy.

According to the declared export returns of the Genoa Consulate General 3,438,039 pounds of cherries in brine, valued at \$410,778, were exported from that port to the United States during the period January 1 to September 30, 1928. The probability is that shipments for the last quarter of the current year will raise the total to that of 1927 (3,775,382 pounds valued at \$435,215), if they do not surpass it considerably.

Approximately 10,500 barrels of cherries in brine were prepared this season by Italian producers to meet the requirements of the manufacturers of candied fruit for export and home consumption.

The declared invoice returns of the Genoa Consulate show that from January 1st to September 30th this year 164,024 pounds of candied cherries, valued at \$27,956, were exported to the United States. The total export from this district in 1927 was 264,342 pounds valued at \$73,228.

New Brunswick Clam-canning Industry

In New Brunswick increased interest is being shown in the clam industry, according to a report received by the Foodstuffs Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Local tastes have not hitherto compelled the exploitation of this

particular type of sea food but canning methods are being perfected and today large shipments are sent to United States markets. Most canning establishments are operated in conjunction with lobster or fish preserving but now a number of small plants are devoting their entire activities to the canning of clams. There has been a better local demand for fresh clams during the past year, especially on the part of tourists.

Salmon Pack for British Columbia

Salmon fishing in British Columbia waters terminated on November 21 with the closing of the season and will remain so until January 1, 1929, unless the Deputy Minister of Fisheries sees fit to open it sooner, according to information received by the Department of Commerce. Up to November 3 the season's pack was 1,934,554 cases. In 1926, the record year, up to October 30, 1,894,981 cases were packed. The figure for 1927, to October 29, was 1,271,793. The total pack for 1925 was 1,720,620 and 1924, 1,747,505 cases.

This seems to indicate a new record this year, but as the figures are only preliminary the final reports may vary the total somewhat. The sockeye pack this year was about 90,000 cases below last season, but pinks, 763,168 cases, showed an increase of 525,559, while the chums, 802,453, showed a gain of 292,269 cases.

Publications of Interest to Canners

Strawberries.—An illustrated bulletin of 29 pages, issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station at East Lansing, Michigan, presents data on strawberry growing in Michigan. The bulletin discusses such topics as acreage and production, site and soil, soil fertility and maintenance, planting and pruning, harvesting, varieties, and insects and diseases.

Cherries.—Results of a study of the defoliation of cherry trees in relation to winter injury are given in Bulletin No. 555 issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, New York.

Cranberries.—The Agricultural Experiment Station at Amherst, Massachusetts, has issued as Bulletin No. 239 a pamphlet of 67 pages, profusely illustrated, on insects which annually take a toll of about one-fifth of the Massachusetts cranberry crop. The bulletin brings together knowledge and experience gained through many years, and presents it in a form readily accessible to cranberry growers.